

## Durant Schools Cost Less Than Other Cities

In this issue of The News appears a statement signed by the entire Board of Education setting forth the financial condition of the public schools and calling for a special levy of one mill to cover certain expenditures that the board say ought to be made.

This paper desires to go on record as heartily favoring the levy and desires to commend the board for their economy and conservatism. The one-mill levy will amount to approximately \$3,000.00 and is to be spent as follows: Special repair bill, \$600.00; school furniture, \$400.00; sewerage in the south and the east wards, \$2,000.00. These are very worthy objects and are necessary for the welfare of the pupils of the schools.

The following comparison is interesting:

Hugo: scholastic enrollment, 1,552; expenses for 1913-14, \$24,965; number of teachers, 33; number of pupils per teacher, 46; amount apportioned to each pupil, \$16.

Durant: scholastic enrollment 1,736; expenses for 1913-14, \$18,000; number of teachers, 23; number of pupils per teacher, 75; amount apportioned to each pupil, \$10.36.

Ardmore: scholastic enrollment, 2,224; expenses for 1913-14, \$43,420; number of teachers, 45; number of pupils per teacher, 50; amount apportioned to each pupil, \$19.

Madill: scholastic enrollment, 586; expenses for 1913-14, \$3,785; number of teachers, 14; number of pupils per teacher, 41; amount apportioned to each pupil, \$15.

Oklahoma City: scholastic enrollment, 16,300; expenses for 1913-14, \$368,400; number of teachers, 491; number of pupils per teacher, 41.

amount apportioned to each pupil, \$23. Muskogee: scholastic enrollment, 6,868; expenses for 1913-14, \$118,419; number of teachers, 136; number of pupils per teacher, 50; amount apportioned to each pupil, \$17.

From the above it will be seen that Durant is not spending the amount of money that the other towns in Oklahoma are spending; that the teachers have more pupils by far than the other cities.

We boast of Durant as an educational center, but unless we support our public schools we cannot hope to maintain the reputation that we have already made. There ought not to be a half-dozen votes cast against this small levy.

## INDIAN QUESTION

Representative Ferris Would Divide All Citizens Into Two Kinds, Competents and Incompetents

Washington, Aug. 7.—Representative Scott Ferris, chairman of the Public Lands Committee of the House of Representatives, who for twenty years has been an active student of and in close personal contact with Indian matters and citizens in Oklahoma today gave out an interview in advocacy of radical changes in the administration of Indian affairs.

"All competent Indians," said Mr. Ferris, "mixed bloods and intermarried citizens should have every vestige of their restrictions removed, and every cent of money paid over to them now being held in the Federal Treasury, and place them on an equal footing with every other American citizen. By so doing they would be merged into society, be made self-reliant, independent citizens and it would be the beginning of the end of the Indian question. It would relieve the Federal Government from further appropriations for them; they would cease to be dependent and would at once become independent citizens."

The term Indian, Mr. Ferris goes on to say, is applied to intermarried white citizens, to mixed bloods, to competent full bloods as well as to the blanket Indian, unacquainted with business methods. It is exceedingly cumbersome and even harmful, he says, to apply this term indiscriminately, and so long as the custom prevails, just so long will the department have trouble in administering Indian affairs.

"There is, in my judgment," says Mr. Ferris, "a well defined remedy for this perplexing problem and that is, first, to allot every Indian of the United States his proper quota of the land of the tribe; second, to divide every penny of the money held as trust funds in the treasury of the United States into individual accounts. This will prevent fraudulent tribal attorney contracts; this will prevent fraudulent claims against a lump sum found that belongs to everybody and still is not defended by anybody; this will let each Indian know the exact status of his business affairs; this will teach him to oppose and expose every extravagant expenditure made of his funds; this will quicken the intelligence of each and every Indian to the fact that when his pro rata of the trust funds has been expended, either by himself or the Federal Government agents acting for him, that he will be reduced to poverty and want. This will excite economy, vigilance and business methods on his part and have a wholesome effect in every way."

Mr. Ferris does not contend that the dependent, helpless Indians should have their restrictions removed from them, nor have their pro rata parts of the funds paid over to them. "For this," he says, "would breed scandal

and would be detrimental to the Indians and call for an apology from the Federal Government." What he desires is to separate the real Indian from the white Indian and to relieve the Federal Government of the duty of administering the affairs of the competent, self-reliant Indians. He would cented public attention upon the solution of the problems of those Indians incompetent to solve them for themselves. He thinks that the amount of dissipation of funds under such an arrangement would be no greater than that of "a similar number of average white citizens of Oklahoma or any other State who had an estate suddenly thrust upon them while wholly unacquainted with business methods."

Mr. Ferris says that for nineteen years the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes have been told by campaign orators and by departmental heads and others that their affairs would finally be adjusted so as to free them of the trouble of journeys to Washington. Since statehood, he says, the Oklahoma delegation has been agreed that these affairs should be settled, but each time when legislation was advanced to accomplish such ends "the 508 employees of the Federal Government in Oklahoma," he asserts ("who are administering those affairs, at once set up a howl, at once set up a protest and import into the State excitable, irrational, inexperienced people wholly unacquainted with Indian problems and affairs, and call their attention to some isolated or exceptional case to the end that they might return to Washington, make a scandalous report and secure widespread newspaper publicity to the effect that the winding up of affairs in Oklahoma means disaster to the Indians."

Mr. Ferris declared that the \$1,398,000 expended among the Five Civilized Tribes in a single year for administrative purposes is an unreasonable sum, "and," he says, "I am not sure but what the expenditure of such an amount in a sovereign State over a people so nearly competent as these is shameful and disgraceful."

Mr. Ferris calls attention to the fact that "the State of Oklahoma has one United States Senator who is an Indian citizen, three Congressmen who are Indian citizens, the president of our constitutional convention was an Indian citizen, the present governor of our State is an Indian citizen, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Oklahoma is an Indian citizen, and it will not be denied by any man who knows the facts that in the Five Tribes half of our state, the leading bankers, lawyers, doctors, merchants and business men are Indian citizens." The poor and ignorant Indian, he says, is the exception, not the rule.

"With the full-blood Indians a rule should be prescribed," Mr. Ferris continues, "first, that his money should be loaned where it would bring the highest rate of interest and accumulate every possible return to him; second, the land of an able-bodied Indian should not in any case be rented and his payments should be withheld and his funds withheld and paid to him in proportion to the industry manifested and in proportion to the land actually cultivated on his farm."

This would stimulate industry, Mr. Ferris contends, and industry would certainly solve the problem for the full-blood Indian. He believes that civilization, self-reliance and independence among the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes under the most minute detail and expert supervision of the Federal Government have gone backward rather than forward. He suggests the appointment of a commission to separate the white intermarried Indian mixed-blood citizen and the competent full-blood Indian citizen from the incompetent, dependent full-blood Indian, as a means of instituting his proposed plan of administration of their affairs.

At Braggs, Okla., a negro constable named Mays was arrested for violating the prohibition law. When arrested the nigger was indignant and stated that he was an officer and had a right to handle booze, when the arresting officer immediately jerked the star off his prisoner's coat.

**Cures Old Sores, Other Remedies Won't Cure.**  
The worst cases, no matter of how long standing, are cured by the wonderful, old reliable Dr. Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil. It relieves pain and heals at the same time. 25c, 50c, \$1.00.

## RETAILERS ELECT OFFICERS

The Durant Retailers Association held its annual meeting and election of officers at the court house Thursday night with an average attendance of members present. The following officers were elected to serve one year: V. E. Kendall, president; E. E. Severance, vice president; Green Thompson, treasurer. On motion it was voted that the board of directors be selected by the president.

Frances J. Meek, secretary of the state association, was present and made an interesting and helpful talk.

## WHY FILTER DOESN'T WORK

There has been a deal of "cussing" and discussing lately and many inquiries of "Why isn't the Filter Plant in Operation," and this paper has taken the matter up with the superintendent of the water system.

Mr. Bennett says that the plant has been out of operation for several days entirely for the reason that a car of alum which is used in the filtration process, was sidetracked at the wrong place and lost, and which required several days to find. He further states that the water patrons of Durant use such an enormous amount of water in the evenings that is a physical impossibility to operate the filtration plant and at the same time keep the water pressure sufficient in case of a fire. He says that during the middle of the day when the hydrants are not watering the lawns, that the filter is kept busy and the water pressure kept up also.

Now this paper does not seek to criticize Mr. Bennett, for he seems to be doing the best he can. But if Durant's water system will not permit of running the filter plant and keeping the water pressure up at the same time, when the patrons are watering their lawns, there is something seriously wrong somewhere.

When the Roberts Filter Co. put in this filter and took "something" like \$20,000 in good and lawful money from the city of Durant, it was the understanding that the filter would be sufficient for Durant's needs for years to come.

This paper requests that the city council dig into the matter and find out why it is that the filter or whatever it is, won't do the work.

Extensive improvements are on this week at the Bailey-Davis Hardware Co. on Main street. New interior furnishings are being installed and a concrete floor being laid throughout the building.

## NEW TIME CARD ON FRISCO

Effective last Sunday, Frisco trains will run on the following schedule:

Train No. 575, west bound, which has been arriving at 10:10 a. m., will arrive at 9:33 a. m.

Train No. 506, east bound, which formerly arrived at 9:36 a. m., will arrive at 8:57 a. m.

Train No. 505, west bound, which has been arriving at 5:43 p. m., will arrive at 6:20 p. m.

Train No. 576, east bound, which has been arriving at 7:03 p. m., will arrive at 7:40 p. m.

## GOT OUT OF THE VAULT

Monday afternoon, a "Jack in the box" artist who was putting on a stunt at the Durant Theatre Vaudeville Show, secured a neat piece of advertising for nothing, when he allowed himself to be securely locked in the vault of Johnson and Marshall, from which he made his escape unassisted in five minutes, having juggled the combination from the inside. A large crowd gathered to see the stunt, many of whom doubted the man's ability to get out of the vault.

## MARRIAGE LICENSES

The following marriage licenses have been issued out of the County Court the past week:

W. F. Dillison and Miss Effie Lee, of Mead; Mach Lee of Kenefick and Miss Della Allen of Robbers Roost; W. R. Sanders of Durant, and Mrs. W. R. Sanders, of Ardmore; J. C. Sublet, Jr. of Durant, and Miss Alice Haviener of Kiersey; Joe Burke of Bokchito and Miss Ada Dodson of Bokchito; W. R. Riddle of Nida and Miss May Seawright of Folsom.

## City Schools Require Extra Tax Levy

To the people of the city of Durant, Oklahoma:

The Board of Education has made out its estimate for expenses during the coming year, which has been approved by the County Excise Board as follows:

Teachers' salaries	\$17,826.00
Fuel	1,000.00
One telephone	18.00
Electric lights in one building	20.00
Supplies	600.00
Secretary's salary	120.00
Treasurer's salary	48.00
Four janitors at \$50.00 per month for nine months	1,800.00
Janitor's service during three summer months	150.00
Additional furniture consisting of school desks	400.00
Repairs on building	600.00
Sewer fixtures and installation of sewerage at south and east ward buildings	2,000.00
Total	\$24,532.00

The board will receive from other sources other than taxation \$7,211.00, which leaves a balance of \$17,321.00 to be raised by taxation.

The five mill levy, which the board is allowed to make after taking ten per cent off for delinquents, which the law requires, will lack \$3,000.00 affording sufficient revenue to meet the estimate of expenses outlined above.

The estimate for expenses this year exceed the estimate last year for two reasons: First, we have hired several additional teachers, made necessary in order to take care of the children. Second, we have provided for certain necessary improvements shown hereafter.

The assessed valuation of the school district is approximately three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00). It will thus take one mill tax additional to the five mill levy, which the board is allowed to make, in order to obtain the revenue to meet the expenditures provided in the estimate which the board has made. The one mill tax asked for figures one dollar per thousand valuation.

The board will submit this matter to the people and if the people vote the one mill tax then the board will proceed and cause said repairs to be made on the ward buildings amounting to \$6,000.00; will buy furniture, which is sorely needed to accommodate our children, amounting to \$400.00 and will install sewer fixtures and connect the south and east ward with the sewer line. These three expenditures aggregate \$3,000.00, the exact amount to be raised by the one mill tax levy. If the people decline to vote the one mill additional tax then the repair will not be made, the additional school desks will not be bought and the plumbing and sewer work in the south and east ward buildings will not be put in.

We believe in taking the people absolutely into our confidence and making a full, fair and complete statement of general welfare demands all improvement in order that each man, woman and child may understand the situation. Any one can see from the above and foregoing statement that it will be impossible to do the work, buy the desks and install the sewers without this levy.

As to the necessity for the improvements called for, there is not a living man who can or will deny that they are needed and needed badly. The ments called for. The election will be called for some time in August or September and in the meantime we would like to hear some expressions from the voters and patrons of our

school, giving their opinion relative to the tax.

Respectfully,

HORACE MARSHALL,  
President.  
W. B. PETTEY,  
Secretary.  
A. L. KIMBRIEL,  
E. R. WILLIAMSON,  
M. C. BASS,  
G. W. MILLIGAN,  
C. C. HATCHETT,  
H. H. HEWITT.

The Kendall Clothing Company is making interior improvements this week which will give the store a new aspect when finished. The most important change is the installation of a handsome cabinet for the keeping and display of men's suits.

**The Best Hot Weather Tonic.**  
GROVE'S TASTEFUL TONIC enriches the blood, builds up the whole system and will wonderfully strengthen and fortify you to withstand the depressing effect of the hot summer. 50c.

## FOR SALE

4 room house, barn, well, walks, lot 75x140, close in; \$1,000, part cash; balance easy terms.

New 5 room bungalow, lot 75x140, close in, good street, Price \$1,300. Only need \$500 cash to handle.

VACANT. Lot 100x140, east front, 10th and Elm. Price \$600. 1/2 cash.

4 rooms and summer kitchen, good barn, lot 150x140, 1/2 block from paved street. \$1,500. Part cash or will trade and take some good stock.

Good house and 1 1/2 acres ground, well located. Price \$700, cash \$300, balance time.

Bungalow 5 rooms, bath, water, lights, lot 100x140, small barn; bearing fruit. Price \$1,500, part cash.

Modern 7 room home, close in, good neighborhood. \$3,500. Cash \$500, balance 6 notes at 6 per cent.

120 acres, deep sandy timber land, one mile of Durant. \$30 per acre or will trade for improved Durant property, well located.

100 acres on 12-mile prairie; 65 acres cultivated; good 4 room house, barn, tank. Price \$35 per acre. Will carry \$1,500 at 8 per cent.

**J. B. HICKMAN**  
Phone 33. Grider Building.

## A NEW STORE

We have bought the Grand Leader from W. T. Thaxton and when our remodeling and restocking process is complete, will present the people of Bryan County a new store.

We are installing new fixtures entire and new concrete floor with handsomely stamped metal ceiling, and will put in a handsome modern plate glass front with gold lettering signs, and when improvements are complete will have one of the most up-to-date stores in the county.

We will employ the highest grade of help who will be courteous and obliging to our patrons, and our stock of goods will be complete in detail.

Our exact opening date is not announced yet. Watch the papers for big announcement of our opening date and sale prices.

## HARNED'S

(D. G. Harned)  
FORMERLY GRAND LEADER  
DURANT - OKLAHOMA

## TEXAS TRACTION COMPANY

(Denison-Sherman-Dallas Interurban)

"THE CONVENIENT WAY"

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Durant, Okla.

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We pride ourselves upon the cleanliness and freshness of our stock and know that no other store anywhere can serve you better.

You'll find our prices lower, quality and service considered, than many other stores.

We solicit your trade upon the merit of our goods:

**Johnson Grocery Co.**

212 Main Street Durant, Okla.